



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANBERRA

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1983

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics—contact Ms Colleen Fogarty on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or any of our State offices.*

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MAIL INQUIRIES *write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.*

MAIN FEATURES

During May 1983 174,500 working days were lost in 166 disputes involving a total of 50,900 workers.

In the twelve months ended May 1983, disputation resulted in the loss of 2.0 million working days, compared with 4.1 million working days in the corresponding period ending May 1982.

The largest dispute in May 1983 involved agricultural industry employees in all States (except Queensland). Most of the working days lost in this dispute occurred in New South Wales.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Previous December quarter issues of the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) have included tables of working days lost per thousand employees. Similar tables have now been included in this publication.

Coverage

2. The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred*.

3. The figures of working days and wages lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

4. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

5. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

6. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

7. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

8. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

9. *Estimated loss in wages* represents the amount of wages and salaries lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and the amount is generally reported by parties to the dispute.

10. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.

11. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

Other ABS publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1980 (6101.0) (\$4.80, \$5.80 including postage)

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0) — quarterly and annual

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — monthly (\$1.00, \$1.70 including postage)

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

— nil or rounded to zero
r revised

14. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost(a) ('000)	Estimated loss in wages(a) (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)		
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	152,022
1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2	221,779
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0	133,624
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>						
May 1982	2,597	2,674	1,179.1	1,244.4	4,118.2	225,670
May 1983	1,834	1,855	563.9	592.9	1,980.8	136,882
<i>1982—</i>						
June	180	201	49.2	58.4	81.6	4,909
July	204	233	72.8	105.2	198.8	12,941
August	192	219	133.0	163.8	412.6	24,675
September	163	194	65.9	84.1	167.2	11,608
October	157	184	43.0	62.6	150.5	9,592
November	162	195	31.1	64.1	102.1	6,517
December	116	139	26.5	31.0	69.8	4,879
<i>1983—</i>						
January	100	108	24.4	25.4	105.5	6,254
February	159	186	36.3	49.7	102.4	7,219
March	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9	14,314
April	94	113	15.9	33.5	235.9	19,930
May	142	166	26.4	50.9	174.5	14,044

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	215.9	633.7	3,320.2
1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3	4,192.2
1982	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
May 1982	675.0	270.2	963.6	669.5	432.8	416.6	690.6	4,118.2
May 1983	160.3	108.5	237.0	277.5	263.2	314.4	620.0	1,980.8
<i>1982—</i>								
June	9.1	2.8	12.4	19.4	16.3	7.6	13.9	81.6
July	31.7	10.5	16.4	13.1	29.8	31.4	66.0	198.8
August	14.9	13.4	35.2	63.8	42.1	166.7	76.7	412.6
September	19.5	11.8	25.3	46.5	15.8	3.7	44.6	167.2
October	21.1	20.0	28.8	47.6	21.4	4.3	7.3	150.5
November	3.3	5.5	40.1	35.9	11.5	2.6	3.2	102.1
December	5.8	5.9	3.9	11.7	3.3	5.1	34.1	69.8
<i>1983—</i>								
January	1.1	11.9	4.1	2.8	12.1	69.6	3.8	105.5
February	18.4	8.9	21.8	10.4	28.7	7.7	6.4	102.4
March	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6	179.9
April	2.8	9.2	14.9	4.3	21.4	1.7	181.6	235.9
May	16.4	5.9	4.8	10.7	15.5	9.3	111.8	174.5

(a) ASIC divisions A (Agriculture), D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES : WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	91.5	3,320.2
1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
May 1982	1,859.9	1,165.7	473.4	160.5	278.9	84.2	4,118.2
May 1983	910.0	354.1	413.3	112.3	129.6	47.4	1,980.8
<i>1982—</i>							
June	40.2	15.7	12.8	2.7	8.3	0.4	81.6
July	75.8	42.9	57.0	4.3	11.5	5.2	198.8
August	73.2	38.5	263.7	19.1	15.1	1.6	412.6
September	96.7	45.5	7.0	2.8	5.2	8.0	167.2
October	44.4	66.2	7.6	1.3	20.7	9.8	150.5
November	38.7	40.3	15.0	0.5	4.3	2.0	102.1
December	31.2	11.4	3.4	8.1	4.3	8.7	69.8
<i>1983—</i>							
January	81.5	6.8	8.6	0.2	7.5	0.2	105.5
February	58.2	20.6	13.0	0.8	8.3	0.5	102.4
March	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9
April	157.6	22.0	4.6	35.1	12.4	4.0	235.9
May	128.8	19.7	5.0	9.3	6.2	5.1	174.5

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 1982 AND 1983

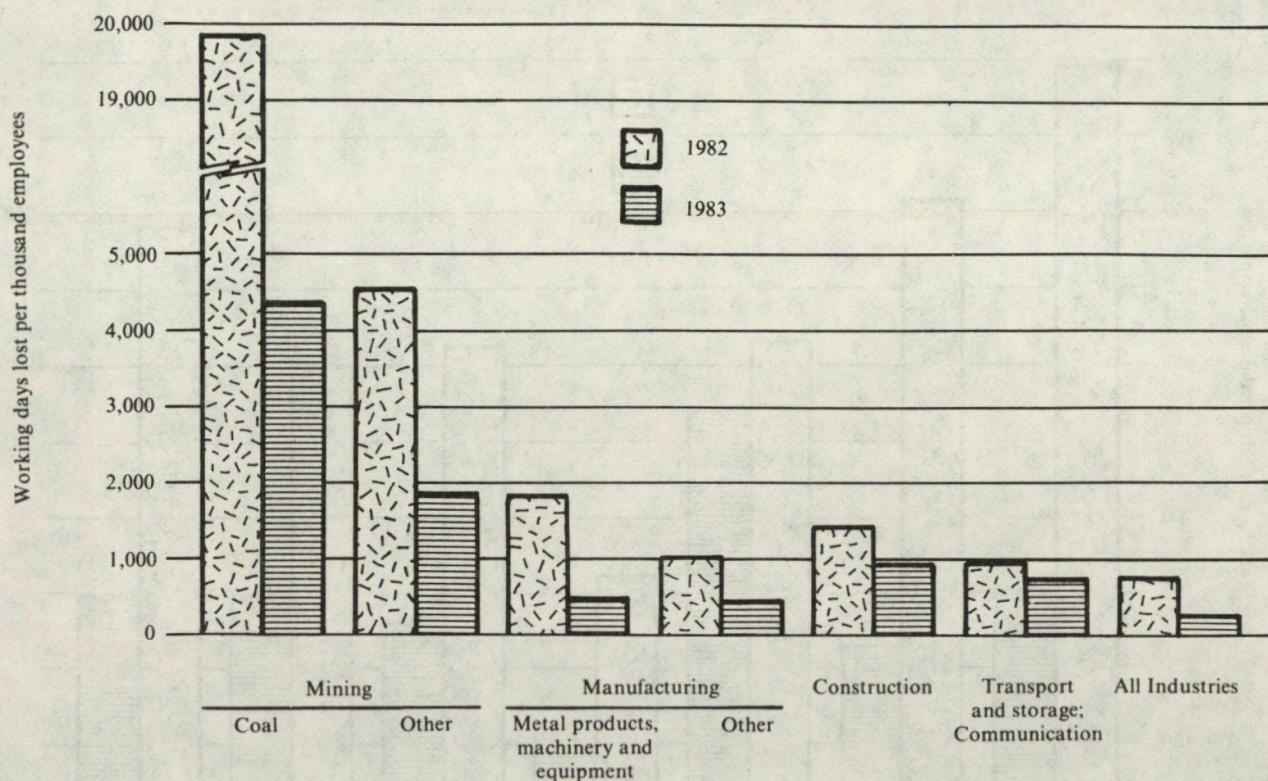


TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

Period	Manufacturing								All industries (a)	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries			
	Coal	Other								
1980	23,533	3,915	1,181	1,094	681	537	202	650		
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800		
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
May 1982	19,853	4,525	1,811	1,008	1,405	973	208	783		
May 1983	4,379	1,877	497	427	917	713	51	295		

(a) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MAY 1982 AND 1983

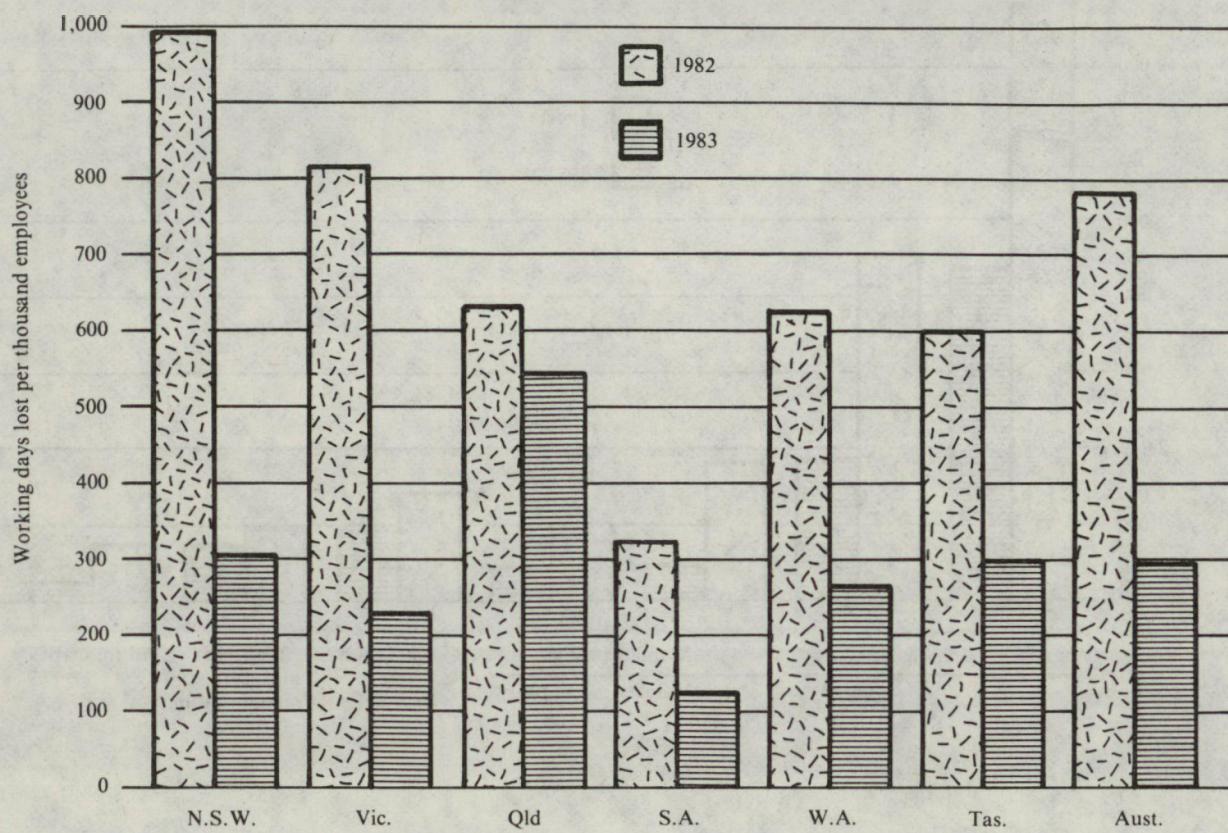


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S. W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1980	660	792	866	132	445	659	650
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
May 1982	993	815	631	323	624	600	783
May 1983	306	230	543	124	265	297	295

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.